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# PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS.

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## THE CHOLERA SITUATION.

The number of cases of cholera being reported in Italy and Russia has markedly decreased, as has also the number of localities from which the cases are reported.

Because of the improvement in the cholera situation abroad the following department circular has been issued making the examination of immigrants to determine the presence of cholera bacillus carriers apply only to immigrants arriving on cholera-infected vessels:

### MODIFICATION OF DEPARTMENT CIRCULAR NO. 47.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,  
Washington, November 16, 1911.

*To National, State, and local quarantine officers, collectors of customs, shipowners and agents, and others concerned:*

Until further notice, Department Circular No. 47 of July 19, 1911, "Addition to Quarantine Regulations—Cholera Bacillus Carriers," is to apply only to infected vessels.

FRANKLIN MACVEAGH,  
*Secretary.*

## PELLAGRA.

A pellagra clinic was held November 2, at Columbia, S. C., under the auspices of the South Carolina State Board of Health. This makes the fourth annual clinic of this kind held at Columbia.

The following extracts are from a report on the clinic made by Passed Asst. Surg. C. H. Lavinder:

Among the papers presented, Dr. J. W. Babcock in discussing the history of pellagra in South Carolina read an abstract of a clinical report, case-history, taken from the records of the asylum for the year 1834. This case-record was in the handwriting of the superintendent of the asylum, Dr. Davis, and gave copious daily notes. After reading this case-history one could scarcely doubt that the physician was dealing with a case of pellagra. He himself spoke of the case as of scorbutic habit. Dr. Babcock was satisfied that the case could hardly have been anything else but pellagra, and expressed the opinion that a further search would undoubtedly show that pellagra had existed in the South Carolina State asylum since it was first opened in 1828.

Mr. E. J. Watson, the South Carolina commissioner of agriculture, made a most interesting address on the spoiled corn problem in the South, and especially in South Carolina. He has made an extensive study of the situation and he showed how very prevalent spoiled corn is in the markets of the South. He also expressed the opinion that spoiled corn is poisonous, and is unfit for consumption by either human beings or animals. This opinion was based upon careful laboratory work. He took the broad position that whatever be the cause of pellagra it was the duty of the State to protect its people against the sale of spoiled corn within its borders, since the use of such corn was a menace to public health. Under his energetic administration the State of South Carolina now has control of the sale of this product, and is vigorously enforcing the law against spoiled corn. South Carolina, he stated, is the only State in the Union which has such a control of the corn market.